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PSCI 337.01: Model United Nations

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MODEL UNITED NATIONS

Instructor: Eric H. Hines

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Office Hours: MWRF 3:00-4:00

Email: eric.hines@umontana.edu

Course Number: PSCI 337/492.02

Class Location: LA 337

Meeting Time: T 3:40-6:00

Website: Moodle (<http://umonline.umd.edu>)

COURSE DESCRIPTION, VARIANTS, AND OBJECTIVES

Model United Nations is a method for developing skills in research, writing, public speaking, negotiation, and conflict resolution through the “representation” of a country in simulations of UN committees. It involves researching your country’s positions on a range of issues, from security and economic challenges to environmental problems and human rights, and then drafting, debating, negotiating, and voting on resolutions to address those issues. Through this process, you gain an understanding of the country you represent, the United Nations, international issues, international diplomacy, and international politics.

Service Learning Designation

This is a service learning course, which means students, faculty and community partners work together to enhance student learning by applying academic knowledge in a community-based setting. In this course, students serve as staff members on one of the five committees we will simulate at the Montana Model UN High School Conference. Participation in the conference, held at the UC on the Monday and Tuesday before Thanksgiving, is mandatory.

Prerequisites

This course is open to sophomores, juniors, and seniors, as well as freshmen who participated in a Model UN conference in high school and/or are enrolled in the honors college.

PSCI 400

This course can be used for the one-credit PSCI 400 upper-division writing class requirement.

Graduate Increment

This class can be taken for graduate credit, but graduate students have additional assignments.

PSCI 337 Versus PSCI 492.02

Most students should enroll in PSCI 337. If you took this course previously and have a leadership role at the MMUN conference, please enroll in Model UN Leadership (PSCI 492-02). These courses meet together but have different assignments that are listed in this syllabus.

MONTANA MODEL UNITED NATIONS CLUB AND MMUN COLLEGIATE TEAM

The purpose of the Montana Model UN Club according to its constitution is “to further knowledge of the United Nations’ mission and activities by informing and engaging high school students, UM students, and the Montana community.” The Club is the host of the MMUN High School Conference and the sponsor for the award-winning MMUN Collegiate Team, which travels to conferences to compete with other collegiate Model UN teams.

Executive Committee

MMUN is run by an elected President and an Executive Committee (ExComm) in consultation with its co-Faculty Advisors. ExComm meets after each class to prepare for the conference.

MMUN President: Elizabeth Story

Co-Faculty Advisors: Karen Ruth Adams and Eric H. Hines

| Internal Staff (Conference Procedures) | External Staff (High School Relations) |
|--|--|
| Secretary-General/Internal (SG-I) Mariah Leder | Secretary-General/External Elizabeth Story |
| Assistant SG/Internal (ASG-I) Byron Boots | Assistant SG/External (ASG-E) Sydney Ausen |
| Director of Operations (DO) Cody Meixner | High School Liaison (HSL) Meagan Harbaugh |

Traveling Team

At the end of the semester, participants in this course can apply to represent UM at an international collegiate Model UN conference in the spring. Typically, MMUN sends twelve students to the National Model UN (NMUN) conference in New York, where 5,000 students converge for a week to debate world issues and hold meetings at the actual UN. Students selected for the team will have to contribute up to \$500 towards their expenses, but much of the cost is covered by UM. By building your skills in this class, you make it likely the MMUN Team will continue to win awards and that UM will continue to sponsor and fund the trip. You can find details about applying for the team on MMUN’s website (www.cas.umt.edu/mun/).

REQUIRED MATERIALS

The following textbook is required and is available at the bookstore or from the library.

Mingst, Karen A. and Margaret P. Karns. 2011. *The United Nations in the 21st Century*, 4th edition. Boulder: Westview.

The following textbook is required only for PSCI 492 and is available at the book store.

Kennedy, Paul M. 2006. *The Parliament of Man: The Past, Present, and Future of the United Nations*. New York: Vintage.

Students are also responsible for keeping up with and will be quizzed weekly on current events related to international politics and the UN as covered by the following two sources:

New York Times, <http://www.nytimes.com/>, (Discount Subscription at <http://goo.gl/HwrPON>)

UN News Centre, <http://www.un.org/news/>

CLASS POLICIES

Student Responsibilities

Except in cases of documented emergency, students have the responsibility to:

1. Complete all assigned readings and homework before class;
2. Complete all course assignments by their deadlines (Late work is not accepted);
3. Attend class regularly, but only when fully prepared to participate;
4. Ask the professor and/or teaching assistant for help if they are having difficulties;
5. Ask for clarification if instructions or feedback are not fully understood;
6. Review all feedback from the instructors, including feedback posted online;
7. Finish the class (University policy on incompletes will be strictly enforced);
8. Inform the instructor beforehand if they cannot fulfill these responsibilities.

Academic Misconduct

All students must practice academic honesty. Academic misconduct is subject to an academic penalty by the course instructor and/or disciplinary sanction by the University. All students need to be familiar with the Student Conduct Code, which is available for review online at http://www.umt.edu/vpsa/policies/student_conduct.php.

Students With Disabilities

If you have a disability and feel you need accommodations in this course please present me with a letter from Disability Services for Students (DSS), Lommasson Center 154 (243-2243), indicating the existence of a disability and the suggested accommodations.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING (% OF TOTAL GRADE)

Class Attendance, Participation, In-Class Assignments, And Quizzes (30%)

You are expected to complete all of the assigned reading, including the previous week's *New York Times* and UN News Centre before each class. Class attendance, participation, in-class assignments, and weekly reading and current events quizzes count towards 30% of your grade.

MMUN Conference Participation (30%)

Conference attendance and participation are worth 30%. You must attend all or most of the conference proceedings on Monday, November 23 (7:45 am to 9 pm) and Tuesday, November 24 (8:30 am to 5 pm). I will provide an excuse note to give to your professors.

Papers And Other Projects (40%)

The remaining 40% of your grade in the class will be based on different writing assignments and other projects. The number, length, type, and due date of assignments depends on your role in the class. Please consult the full schedules on Moodle.

Grading And Grading Scale

This course uses a plus/minus grading system with a 100-point grading scale with any fractional points rounded to the nearest integer. The breakdowns for each grade are as follows: A = >93, A- = 90-92, B+ = 87-89, B = 83-86, B- = 80-82, C+ = 77-79, C = 73-76, C- = 70-72, D+ = 67-69, D = 63-66, D- = 60-62, F = <60.

COMMITTEES, ROLES, AND TOPICS

MMUN simulates five UN committees: the General Assembly, Security Council, First Committee (Disarmament and International Security Committee or GA-1), Second Committee (Economic and Financial Committee or GA-2), and Third Committee (Social, Humanitarian and Cultural Committee or GA-3). Each committee will have at least 4 staff members, including a chair, a vice chair, a rapporteur, and an ExComm member. If enrollment permits, committees will also have one or more expert/runners. Collectively, the committee staff is known as the Dais. Each position has various duties.

Chair

The Chair is in charge of all committee proceedings. S/he will open and close all committee sessions, interpret and ensure the observance of the Rules of Procedure and Delegate Code of Conduct, determine whether points and motions are in order, accord the right to speak, keep track of speaking time, approve working papers and amendments, announce the results of votes, etc.

Vice Chair

The Vice Chair is responsible for assisting the Chair. S/he will take attendance, keep a written record of the committee proceedings, keep track of delegate participation for awards, approve working papers and amendments, count votes, etc. Once delegates have begun to submit working papers, the vice chair's primary responsibility will be to evaluate and approve working papers to become draft resolutions.

Rapporteur:

The Rapporteur is responsible for assisting the Chair and the Vice Chair. S/he will post the

agenda, current motions, the speakers list, draft resolutions, and amendments. The Rapporteur will also help the Vice Chair approve working papers and amendments, count votes, etc.

Expert/Runner:

Whenever possible, each committee will also have an expert/runner. Expert duties include helping the vice chair approve working papers and amendments, making presentations during debates on the issues, and providing delegates with information normally supplied by their home government. Runner duties include printing and distributing draft resolutions and delivering messages from the Chair to the Conference Staff, from delegates to the Committee Staff, and (at the discretion of the Chair) from one delegate to another. The Expert/Runner will also aid the Rapp in his/her duties while the Rapporteur assists the Vice Chair.

ExComm Member

Each committee will have one returning ExComm member to assist the chair and all other committee staff and to give the final approval on all working papers submitted to become draft resolutions. ExComm members are also responsible for setting a good example in in-class simulations, leading Role Group meetings, running a room at Region Night, carrying out administrative duties in the Office of Delegate Services (ODS), and attending ExComm meetings as scheduled below.

Topics

| Committee | Topics |
|---------------------------------|---|
| General Assembly Plenary | 1. Deforestation 2. Peacebuilding |
| GA First Committee | 1. Enforcing the Biological Weapons Convention 2. Strengthening Security & Cooperation in Africa |
| GA Second Committee | 1. Migration and Development) 2. Responding to Rising Food Price |
| GA Third Committee | 1. Water for Life 2. Trafficking in Women and Children |
| Security Council | 1. The Situation in the Democratic Republic of North Korea 2. Threats to Security Caused by Terrorist Acts |

BRIEF COURSE SCHEDULE

This is a brief summary of weekly topics and participation assignments for all students. Further assignments depend on your role in the class, so please consult the full schedules on Moodle.

| Date | Weekly Topic | Participation Assignment |
|----------------|---|---|
| 9/1 | Introduction; MMUN Club Meeting | Background & interest survey |
| 9/8 | UN History & Structure; Committee Interviews | Quiz #1 |
| 9/15 | Theories about International Relations, the UN, and Diplomacy | Quiz #2 |
| 9/22 | Diplomacy, Part I: Formulating and Articulating National Foreign Policies | Quiz #3 |
| 9/29 | Diplomacy, Part II: Negotiating Resolutions | Fun resolution exercise and simulation participation |
| 10/6 | Diplomacy, Part III: Debating & Voting on Resolutions; Responding to Crises | Simulation participation Parli Pro Game |
| 10/13 | Security Issues & Security Council Simulation | Committee Staff: 3-5 min Speeches All students: Simulation participation |
| 10/20 | Security Issues & GA-1 Simulation | Committee Staff: 3-5 min Speeches All students: Simulation participation |
| 10/27 | Economic Issues & GA-2 Simulation | Committee Staff: 3-5 min Speeches All students: Simulation participation |
| 11/3 | Social & Humanitarian Issues/GA-3 Simulation | Committee Staff: 3-5 min Speeches All students: Simulation participation |
| 11/10 | Environmental Issues, UN Reform, & GA-Plenary Simulation | Committee Staff: 3-5 min Speeches All students: Simulation participation |
| 11/17 | Crisis Simulation, Combined GA-Plen, and Review Conference Schedule | All students: Simulation participation |
| 11/23 11/24 | MMUN High School Conference at the University Center | Conference attendance and participation |
| 12/1 | Conference Debriefing & the Future of the UN | Debriefing discussion participation |
| 12/8 | TBD | |
| 12/15 | MMUN Club and Traveling Team Meeting | |